



House Select Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

JIM TURNER, Ranking Member

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9-11 Commission: Renewed Sense of Urgency

Congressman Jim Turner, Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, made the following statement on the introduction of the 9-11 Commission final report.

“The 9-11 Commission report is a sobering account of the failures of our government to close the security gaps that even today, three years after September 11, still make our nation vulnerable to terrorist attack. The Commission recommendations reinforce the findings of many groups that have urged the President and the Congress to move faster and stronger to protect America.

The “Winning the War on Terror” report produced by the Democrats on the House Select Committee on Homeland Security contained similar recommendations. Because the Commission recommendations have both unanimous and bipartisan support, it is my hope they will receive the attention and urgency they deserve.

The challenges outlined in the 9-11 report reaffirm the need for a comprehensive plan to Win the War on Terror. The 9/11 Commission concludes that our nation must:

- ** Attack the terrorists abroad by denying them safe harbors and cutting off their funding;**
- ** Close gaps in our homeland security; and**
- ** “Engage in the struggle of ideas” to prevent the rise of future terrorists.**

To win the war on terror, we need to pursue all of these policies simultaneously.

The Commission is also critical of the Congress and with good reason. In response to September 11, we created the Department of Homeland Security—completely changing the Executive branch to address the terrorist threat. However, Congress has failed to organize itself to deal with the most significant challenge of our time.

We must act now. Our terrorist enemies do not wait. We are at war and we must move forward with the urgency consistent with the reality of this war.”

In April, Democrats on the Homeland Security Committee introduced *Winning the War on Terror*, a plan to attack the terrorists where they are, protect the homeland and prevent the rise of future terrorists. The report and recommendations can be found at www.house.gov/hsc/democrats.

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